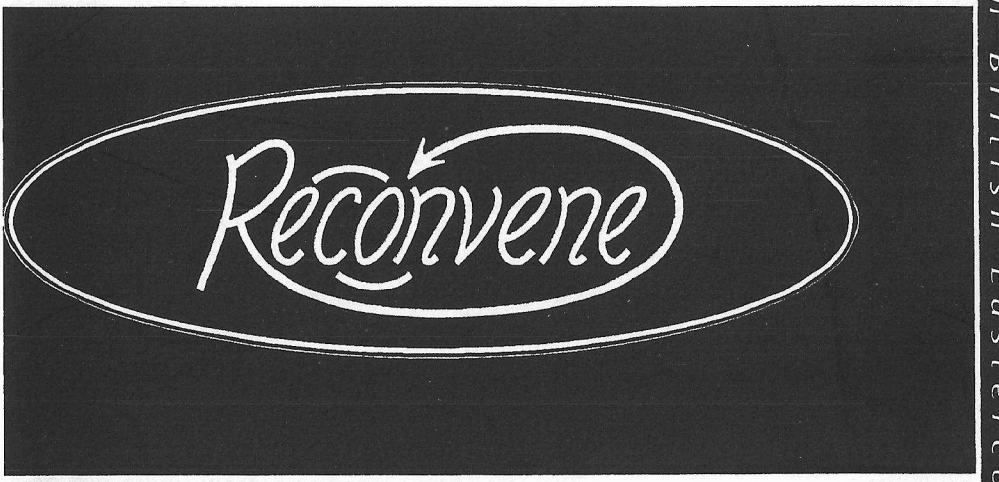

Read Me

the 50th British Eastercon April 1st - 5th 1999

Information in general.

We haven't tried to put in the Read Me everything which anyone might possibly want to know: there simply is not enough space (or possibly paper in the known universe). If you want to know something and can't find it here, as it might be the location of an all-night chemist or chain-saw hire shop, there are two possible ports of call.

First is the Hotel reception desk, where they have most of the information people might expect from any hotel. If they fail you, it is possible that Ops might know, or know whom to ask, or have various railway timetables to hand. If neither of these work, the chances are that only a native of the town in a good mood knows the answer, and you could possibly try bribing a porter....

Problems?

If you have any criticisms or problems, please tell us so that we can try to do something to improve matters. Chris Bell (hotel) and/or Steve Davies (our chairman) plus other members of the Reconvene committee, will be at the feedback sessions, in the Boardroom, on Saturday at 12:30 and on Sunday at 11:30. This doesn't mean that you can only talk about problems at this time, but if you're to busy with other matters to hunt us down earlier you will certainly be able to find us there. Please don't save your problems until Monday's session, because there isn't one. Instead the committees of the next two Eastercons will be in the Main Hall at 14:00 to hear your suggestions for improving future conventions

If you just wish to make a comment, without needing a reply, there will be a suggestions box in the Main lounge information area. We'll read the contents and pass anything relevant to future committees.

Badges

Please wear your badge visibly at all times. Owing to contractual obligations the Adelphi has had (reluctantly) to let some rooms on Friday and Saturday nights to people not members of Reconvene, and security is going to have to be tight; make life easy for our security people (and the hotel's) by making it obvious that you are a member of Reconvene, please! Speaking of which, please try also to remember Rule 1 at Illumination, which roughly translated as "Be kind to mundanes, they can't help it". These people probably mean no harm. If they give you grief or insult you, don't try to deal with it yourself or get into a row with them if you can possibly avoid it: go and find the DCM to ask the hotel or one of our security people to come and be polite to them, or find a committee member to take over. This isn't cowardice or anything of that sort: it's just helpful to us, because it means that the hotel and committee will know if any one particular person should be asked to leave the hotel for repeated nastiness. We hope it won't happen, but if it does we want to know about it early and prevent it from happening again.

Hotel Policy

Smoking.

Would smokers please sit on the right hand side (as you face the stage) of the Sefton Room and the Main Hall. The Fan Room is a smoking area, except when programme items are in progress. Smoking is not permitted in other programme venues. Smoking is not permitted, even in the Main Hall and Sefton, during musical and theatre performances.

Drink

Pints at £1.70, half pints at 85p:

Session Real Ale
Bitter
Mild
Lager
Orange juice
Coke
Lemonade

Pints at £1.85, half pints at 95p:

Strong Real Ale
Real Cider
Guinness

Other drinks will be at the prices on the tarriff behind the bars.

Food

Breakfast, in Jenny's Restaurant

Thursday: 7.30 -- 10.30am
Friday: 8.00 -- 11.00am
Saturday: 8.00 -- 11.00am
Sunday: 8.00 -- 11.00am
Monday: 8.00 -- 11.00am
Tuesday: 7.30 -- 10.30am

During the days of the convention, Friday to Monday, there will be hot food in the Pearce room from 11.30am until 3pm. This will cost £2.95 for a main course, £1.20 for a sweet, and 50p for tea, coffee or (we hope!) hot chocolate. There will also be filled rolls at 80p available throughout the day. Food will be served again in the Pearce room from 6.30pm until we finish it or the staff put on their pyjamas and find a z-bed to sleep in, theoretically at 10pm.

Other possibilities for food within the hotel in the evenings are Cromptons, downstairs from the lobby, and Jenny's, ditto, and the pizza restaurant down beyond the entrance to Cromptons. We haven't tried to put all Liverpool's eateries into this Read Me, because we are running out of space; we hope that the newsletter may carry items about especially good (or bad) places to eat (or not) after the first evening. So if you have anything you want to share on the subject of where to eat out (or not), we'd be very grateful if you told a Minion of Thog or even Thog himself, please!

Food and Drink from outside

The hotel manager and staff have a very simple policy about bringing in food from outside the hotel to eat on the premises. Don't. And on the whole, the committee will not be on your side if you get caught red-handed with a takeaway in the lobby.

Hotel Policy

Groats

The Adelphi/Reconvene Groat, otherwise known as a gopher ticket, will be worth an ordinary drink, or £1.70, and we hope that the hotel staff will be treating it as a £1.70 note which they will take as part-payment and for which they will give change.

That's what we think we've arranged, and if it doesn't happen please tell Chris Bell as soon as possible so that she can sort it out all over again if need be, or she can come and explain it to individual members of the staff who haven't grasped the idea.

Badges

You may have noticed that no two badges at this convention are the same, and not just because each has a different name on it. The extra words were produced by a consortium headed by Tom Holt, with Roger Burton West, Chris Bell, Chris Suslowicz, Diana Wynne Jones, Tim Kirk, Rafe Culpin, Omega, Harry Payne, Thog the Mighty and the second most evil entity in the galaxy.

If you really find your particular badge unacceptable for some reason (though we very much hope not to have been offensive: if we have accidentally managed to trample on some particular concern of yours we apologise and hope to be forgiven) we will of course exchange it for one with only your name and convention number; but we will need to have your original badge back in the interests of security.

Breakfast

At the time of going to press, the usual dining-room at the Adelphi, Jenny's Restaurant, was still being redecorated after suffering fire-damage in February. We and the hotel management very much hope that the work will be completed by Easter; if it hasn't been, breakfast will be in the food room off the main lounge, and will be served until 11.00 each morning, after which there will be a short pause before lunch is served in the same room. Please help the staff to deal with this minor crisis by being patient with them and accepting the inconvenience: the fire really wasn't their fault!

Security

The Adelphi has no *more* problems with theft than any other city hotel, but it has no *less* problem either. Please don't leave bags lying around unattended; please lock your room when you leave it, and test the door to make sure it's firm. We hope that no convention member would dream of pinching your stuff, but neither we nor the staff of the Adelphi can guarantee that nobody from outside will sneak in and grab what they can.

Newsletter

Thog the Mighty and his team of Thog's Hounds will be producing a newsletter throughout the convention, issues appearing at regular intervals. If you have things you want to put into this publication, they will be found in the ~~bar~~ in Room 200 waiting for your scoop/small ad/ appeal for help.

Voodoo Board

There will be a voodoo board in the main lounge for you to leave messages for your friends. It would be great if you tick in on arrival, Out when you leave: that way no-one wastes time looking all over the hotel for someone who isn't there. And if you happen to know that someone has left, you can tick them out if they have forgotten.

Chair Circles at Reconvene.

There will be a large number of chair circle discussion groups at Reconvene, provided people sign up to attend them. They will operate as follows:

Each circle's subject, the name of the circle's leader and the time that it will happen will be announced in the Read Me. There will be a board in lounge containing a sign-up sheet for each circle and places will be limited, so if you want sit in a circle, sign up early. Check the board also for circles that were volunteered too late to make it into the Read Me. We will ask the leader of the circle to set the upper and lower limits of people they want to deal with, but as a general guide, we would expect a circle to need at least three people to sign up if it is to be viable, and to run with not more than fifteen people. Upper limits will be marked on the sign-up sheet, anyone signing up after the limit will only secure a place if people higher on the list drop out.

The venue for the circle will be pinned to the board, by the sign-up sheet, two hours before the circle takes place. This allows us to see how much space is needed for the attendees, whether disabled access is needed etc. If insufficient people are signed-up the leader may decide to cancel the circle.

Sign-up sheets will be removed from the board thirty minutes before the circle takes place.

Awards

The following awards will be presented at the Sunday evening ceremony. Members of Reconvene have the opportunity to vote for the winner in many of these awards. Please take the time to do so - the more people who vote, the greater the honour the winner receives. Ballot boxes will be placed near the information area in the main lounge.

The BSFA Awards

The British Science Fiction Association sponsors awards for Best Novel, Best Short Fiction, and Best Artwork. In the membership pack that you receive on arrival at Reconvene, you will find a voting form, with a shortlist showing the works nominated for these awards. Please take the time to read through the shortlist, and vote for those works you'd like to see honoured.

The Ken McIntyre Award

The Ken McIntyre award for fan artwork will be given by popular vote for the best piece of work in the Eastercon artshow. Work done for paid publication is not eligible, and any exhibitor may withdraw any of their pieces from the vote. Ballot forms will be available in the Art Show.

The Doc Weir Award

The Doc Weir award is a way in which we can all say "thank you" to a member of the fannish community for their contribution to fandom. It's not restricted to a list of nominations, and any and every member of the convention can vote. There will be ballot slips on the Registration Desk. Remember to vote by mid-day on Sunday, and help someone to feel their efforts are valued.

The Richard Evans Award

This is the first year that this award in memory of Richard Evans will be made. For all those who knew him, it is appropriate that the award should be announced at this year's Eastercon, an event that he usually enjoyed very much, particularly when it was in Liverpool.

Richard died very unexpectedly in May 1996 at the tragically young age of 46. He was a talented and much loved Publisher who was Editorial Director of the Gollancz SF list at the time of his death. Throughout his career he had been associated with genre publishing, particularly SF, in which he believed passionately. It was for this reason that a group of friends and colleagues got together to found this award for genre fiction. Richard always believed in encouraging talent despite the vagaries of the market. Therefore, the award, which is voted on by a panel of judges, is aimed at an author's work over a period of time, an author who has contributed significantly to the genre without necessarily obtaining significant reward. It is hoped that this year's award will be the beginning of an annual event.

The Richard Evans Fund sponsors this award. T-shirts in aid of the Fund will be on sale at Reconvene.

Awards

The Paper Tiger Art Award

The publishers Paper Tiger are again presenting the Paper Tiger Art Award at Reconvene. This comes in the form of a cheque for £100 to the lucky winner.

The Phlosque Award

An award for gratuitously kitsch or tacky artwork, presented by SMS

Hall Costumes

Hall costumes add colour and fun to a con and we want as many people as possible to wear them. You are encouraged to wear hall costumes throughout the con, but we have designated Sunday as the official hall costume day. (This was my idea, because in the past, if I have brought a hall costume, I have not known what day to wear it and have worried that I'll be the only one in a costume and will feel silly!)

So be sure that on Sunday, especially following the inspiration of Saturday night's Masquerade, there will be lots of people in hall costume. Including me.

And there will be a prize for the best hall costume, with all con members able to vote. Here's how it will work.

All members will receive two votes each, in the form of little certificates, in their membership packs. At any time during the con, if you see a hall costume that you think is fabulous, give the wearer one of your votes by handing him or her a hall costume voting certificate. Please give out all your votes by the end of Sunday night.

Recipients of voting certificates are to hand them in at the Information Desk in the Main Lounge by 10:00 am Monday morning. They will be counted and put into a sealed envelope with the recipient's name. The person with the most votes wins, and will be announced at the closing ceremony, when a prize will be awarded.

Please keep to the following rules when wearing your costume:

* There must actually be a costume, i.e. nudity doesn't count.

* It can be worn by someone other that the person who made it.

* No weapons. No arguments.

* No oozing slime, melted chocolate, body paint or anything else that will come off all over other peoples' clothes or bits of the hotel.

To be eligible for the hall costume prize:

* A costume must be made, not bought or hired, although some elements of the complete costume, e.g. accessories, may be bought or hired. (Bought or hired costumes can still be worn, they just won't be given a prize.)

* Costumes that have won major Eastercon or Worldcon awards cannot be in the running for a further prize - be fair, give someone else a chance. You can still wear a costume that has previously won a prize. (In fact, many people would like to see close-up costumes they have previously only seen on stage.)

Giulia De Cesare

The BSFA Awards

Throughout the year BSFA members have been nominating novels, shortstories and artwork for this year's BSFA Awards. So what's it all about?

A Brief History

In 1966 the BSFA initiated the British Fantasy Award, presented to an individual author (in the first instance John Brunner). In 1970 this was replaced by the British Science Fiction Association Award presented for the best novel, again going to John Brunner, this time for his novel Stand on Zanzibar.

Since then there have been a number of changes to the awards presented, although the 'Best Novel' award has remained constant. Since 1980 there has been a 'Short Fiction' award and some sort of 'Art' award. From 1979 there was a 'Media' award , but this was later dropped (due to insufficient interest).

In addition there has occasionally been a special award presented by the BSFA committee for a exceptional critical work. Most recently, in 1994, this was presented to the second edition of the SF Encyclopedia (despite the fact that it manages to get the name of the BSFA award wrong, referring to it as the British Science Fiction Award!).

Who can vote?

Although at present only BSFA members can nominate, the award winners are determined by both BSFA members and members of the Eastercon convention (yes, that means you!).

Why should you bother?

The British Science Fiction Association Awards are the only sf awards in this country decided by you, the fans. They are the nearest we have to the Hugos and I feel should have the same importance to British fandom. This is your chance to have your say, to honour the writers and artists who have impressed you. Traditionally there tend to be very few votes from Eastercon members who are not also BSFA members, and I would like to change this. To coin a phrase, this is your vote, don't waste it!

What happens next?

The short list was announced in January and you should have received a ballot paper in your membership packs. Please fill this in and return it to the BSFA Stall in the dealers room, or to me personally, by mid-day on Sunday, remembering to put your name and Reconvene membership number in the appropriate place.

Presenting the awards

As I write this, details of the award ceremony have yet to be finalised. However, the ceremony will be on Sunday at 6pm in the Main Hall. See the programme for further details.

See you there!

Chris Hill

BSFA Awards Administrator

Where to find the programme.

We've got good things happening all over the Adelphi, so here's a guide to where to find them. It may also help you to find all the Janus references in the Fan Room competition.

Let's start as you enter the Adelphi from the outside world. On your right is the American Bar. You'll find readings, panels, and AGMs in here until Monday, when it will become the luggage store for people checking out.

From the entrance hall take a lift to the fourth floor and you will find the Video and Games Rooms. Harry Payne has found some very unusual and interesting items for the Video Room and there will also be discussions, illustrated by video clips, each day. Bill Ray, in the Games Room, will be providing a wide choice of diversions lasting from half an hour to half a day, or the entire con. Your choice.

The entrance hall contains the stairs to the main lounge. As you reach the top of the stairs, there are further stair-cases to your left and right. Take the one on the left and you will find yourself opposite the entrance to the Boardroom (panels, games, talks and late night filk.). Take the one on your right and you will find yourself opposite Ops which is where to volunteer to be a gopher. If you ignore this subtle hint and continue round to the left, you will find a staircase to the Executive Suite, where the Chaos Costumers will be busy with cloth and scissors until after the Masquerade.

Back down to the main lounge and standing with your back to the staircases. To your right is a ramp, leading to a passage. Once in the passage, the entrance to the Art show and Dealers area is on the right. On the left is an entrance to the Sefton Room (panels, auctions, music etc.). This is the preferred entrance when programme items are in progress, since there will be less noise disruption when this door is opened. The exception to this is the Art Auction, when items for auction will be carried through these doors. For the duration of this item, please enter via the doors to the main lounge.

There is another ramp and passage on the left side of the main lounge. The passage again has two doors. The one to the left leads you into the Fan Room, where you will find exhibitions, all kinds of programme items, comfortable seating and a warm welcome from Eve and John Harvey. Not to mention the Fan Room competition. Opposite the Fan Room entrance is a door leading to the Pearce Room. (Main bar and the fast food.) .At the end of the passage, you will find a table with jigsaws, in case you need a quiet moment to rest and recover your equilibrium

Back to the main lounge again. Half way down the sides are the main entrance to the Pearce Room (bar and food) and the entrance to the Sefton Room for use before and after programme items. At the far end of lounge are the doors leading to the Hypostyle (con desks) and beyond that is the Main Hall (GOHs, Masquerade, etc.). 16mm films will be shown across the back of the Main Hall and late night video at the front.

On the right of the Hypostyle, a ramp leads up to the Terrace, where you will find the Real Ale Bar. If you look hard you will also find a lift, which gives the best access to rooms 155/169 and 255/269. These rooms will have more readings, panels, workshops, games and Captain Tartan rehearsals, so don't forget to investigate them.

Doors on the left side of the Terrace lead to the back of the Main Hall and the doors opposite lead to a wide passage. On the right is the entrance to the Book Room and a table that will be used for most author signings. On the left is a divided stair-case. The right-hand flight leads to the Green Room. Programme participants please take note.

Chair circles will be appearing all over the place. Don't forget to sign up for them on the board in the Main Lounge.

Photography, Video and sound Recording policy.

Basic rules are

- "Don't obstruct the performers or the audience view or make a lot of noise unwrapping and changing films, tapes, etc. Be discreet."
- "Don't expect anyone to wait while you change your film, tape, etc.
- "Don't record if asked not to"
- "If in doubt, Don't".

The Robin Williamson and Phoenix concerts are definitely not to be recorded. The performers will be selling tapes and/or CDs after the performances. If you record you are stealing from them.

Filk concerts and circles.

Performers. If you don't want to be recorded, say so before you perform. Anyone found recording after a performer has made such a request will be asked to wipe that section of tape and leave the performance.

Masquerade.

There will be a photo opportunity during the Masquerade, please don't use flash photography at any other time.

Other programme items, ask permission first and only record if it is granted.

Note to people being recorded. We hope, during the closing ceremony, to show a very short video of some of the weekend's events. So if you see someone recording, it may be a for us. If you don't wish to be on film, please ask them politely to refrain. If you do want to be recorded, sorry, but you will probably end up on the cutting room floor. We did say a very short video.

Fan Room

The fan room has been planned as a visual experience as well as a programme stream.

Displays will feature:

- In Memoriam: A tribute to VinΩ Clarke, ATOM, Ian Gunn and other fans who are sorely missed.
- The Complete Fan: Add your own characteristics!
- Fannish Timeline: Conventions and fandom through the ages.
- Local Groups: Add details of your own groups.

The Reconvene Fanthology will be on sale in the Fan Room. It contains a selection of fannish writings and artwork from the last 20 years. All proceeds to Sight Savers.

There will also be an ongoing competition. The theme of the fan room is Janus, the god of beginnings and endings. Throughout the fan room and the whole convention there will be images that relate in some way to forwards and backwards. See how many you can find and a small brown prize will be yours!

Masquerade.

If you plan to enter the Masquerade, you must attend the Technical Rehearsal, Saturday in Main Hall, between 08:00 and 10:00. Chaos Costume Rehearsal and final set-up will be in the Main Hall from 17:30, Masquerade starts at 19:30.

Please bring with you any music you want played, a script if you want the MC to read something out, and, if possible, a piece of the costume to check how the colour looks under the lights.

If you have any questions, come to Chaos Costume, Friday from 113:00 in the Executive Suite. The folks in there may not know, but they'll know someone who does.

Be aware that the organiser may allow, or ban, costume weapons at her discretion.

Reconvene

Friday

MAIN HALL	SEFTON	BOARDROOM	FAN ROOM (EMPIRE)
12:30 Opening Ceremony. The usual welcomes, plus a few surprises..		***11:00 Things I Wish I'd Known at my First Convention.*** New to conventions? A group of experienced con-goers, Fran Dowd, Chris Cooper and Pat Reynolds offer some tips on how to really enjoy yourself. Alice Lawson moderates.	
13:30 The Campaign for Real Fantasy Authors don't always get it right. Peter Beagle, Tom Holt, Diana Wynne Jones and Marcus Rowland point up some glaring mistakes. Kari moderates.	***14:00 Seacon '79 Twenty Years After*** For Susan Booth, John Dallman and Mike Cule Seacon '79 was their first con, for Julian Headlong it was his first Worldcon. Peter Garratt moderates as they reminisce and consider what has changed in twenty years.		
15:00 Guest of Honour Interview Jeff Noon in conversation with Pat Cadigan.			***16:00 Fan Fund Auction. Part 1.*** The first attempt to get at your money before you've had the chance to spend it!
	16:00 The Weapon Shopper's guide War in the new Millennium. Ken MacLeod moderates a serious and constructive look at the future of weaponry, with Iain Banks, Timons Esaias Nigel Furlong and Nik Whitehead.		
16:30 Groundhog Day (film, in the back half of the room) An excellent exploration of the theme of alternative timelines. John Clute will be using this film to illustrate his talk tomorrow. [2 hrs.]		***16:30 Comics Blow by Blow.*** Michael Abbott recommends some of his favourites and talks about the field.	

MAIN HALL	SEFTON	BOARDROOM	FAN ROOM (EMPIRE)
18:30 Microphone Workshop With Richard Rampant	***17:30 Secret Histories of the Twentieth Century*** Being a Committee of enquiry into Certain Events. Involving ~~Diana Wynne Jones~~, ~~John Clute~~, ~~Paul Kincaid~~, and ~~John Richards~~. ~~Andrew Stephenson~~ presides.	***18:00 Pictures at a Convention.*** Tom Abba has borrowed a few pictures from the Art Show. He discusses them with our guest artist Ron Tiner, Judith Clute and Graham Higgins.	***18:00 Fanzines: Evolution or Devolution?*** Moderator Rob Hansen will try to control a panel looking at the development of the fanzine and its likely evolution in the next millennium.
19:30 Hall reset and Concert Set-up.	***19:00 Past Masters?*** How good were the SF writers of the past? Alfred Bester, Edgar Pangborn, Eric Frank Russell and Theodore Sturgeon are reviewed by Andrew Adams, Bridget Bradshaw, Simon Bradshaw and Huw Walters. Mic Rogers moderates.	***19:30 Actually, I AM a rocket scientist.*** Jordin Kare describes weird and non-traditional propulsion methods.	
20:00 Concert: Robin Williamson, formerly of the Incredible String Band, entertains. [Approx 2hrs.]	***20:30 Turning Points.*** Influential films of the last half century, discussed by Sabine Furlong, John Richards and Dai Walters. Dave Lally moderates.	***21:00 TechnoBabble or TechnoWhat?*** Is it real science, fake science, or nonsense? A quiz presented by Dave O'Neill and Paul Cray.	
22:30 Independence Day (film, in the back half of the room). Invading aliens blow up the White House. "War of the Worlds for the 1990s" [2hrs 20mins.]	***22:00 The William Shatner Sisters Present Sci-Fried.*** A revue by Phil Raines, starring Penny Heal, Phil Raines and Jason Stevens.	***22:30 Filk Concert.*** The theme tonight is "Time Was". Followed by a filk circle until everyone goes to bed.	***22:30 Readings.*** Hear live excerpts from the Reconvene Fanthology. [30mins.] ***23:00 Radio Play.*** Come along and participate in the production of a radio play, without radio!
01:00 The Wicker Man (video). Visiting detective finds himself caught up in islanders' pre-christian rituals. With introduction by Dave Lally. [Approx 1hr 45mins.]			

Reconvene

Reconvene

Saturday

MAIN HALL	SEFTON	BOARDROOM	FAN ROOM (EMPIRE)
08:00 Masquerade Rehearsal 2 Hours.			
10:30 The Last Unicorn (in the back half of the room). A showing of the animated film based on Peter Beagle's novel, followed by a discussion between Peter and Andrew Osmond. [2hrs]	***10:30 Book Auction*** Buy a book, help stamp out television. [2 hrs]	***11:00 ....And here's one I prepared earlier.*** A Headlong dive into the past. Julian Headlong in retrospective mood.	
		12:30 Feedback:The Gripes of Wrath If there's something wrong, tell us NOW, while we have time to fix it. Andrew Adams chairs. Note that there will be no feedback session for Reconvene on Monday. [30 mins.]	
13:00 The Laungaue of Comics Finding subtext and meaning in a drawing, described by our Artist Guest Ron Tiner.	***13:00 Filk Concert*** Today's theme is "Time is", featuring Peter Beagle. [1hr 30mins.]	***13:30 Mastermind*** Peter Weston asks the questions. Paul Dormer, Edward James, Marcus Rowland and Mike Scott sit under the spotlight, Mike Ford keeps score.	***13:00 So you're going to Australia?*** A group of survivors of Aussie fandom relay their experiences in an attempt to prepare you for the Worldcon.
14:30 Guest of Honour Speech: John Clute discusses criticism and fantasy in relation to the film "Groundhog Day" (shown on Friday).			
	15:30 Storming the Mainstream Why isn't SF accepted as literature? Discussed by Jeff Noon, John Jarrold and Dick Jude. Caroline Mullan moderates.		
16:00 Phoenix Set up		***16:00 Expressions of Horror*** Vijay Bowen, Ramsay Campbell and Freda Warrington compare techniques for creating horror in different media. Chris Morgan moderates.	

Read Me

Saturday

MAIN HALL

17:30 Masquerade Set up & Chaos Costume
[1hr.45mins.]

19:30 Masquerade
Characters and scenes from your favourite books and films are brought to life. [2 hrs.]

21:30 Phoenix Set up

22:30 Phoenix LIVE!
The Saturday night rock concert with Lissa Allcock, Phil Allcock, Anne Walker, Tim Walker, Anne Whitaker and (by no means least) Mike Whitaker.

00:30 Frighteners
(video) Original blend of horror, paranormal and black comedy as Michael J Fox tracks an other-worldly serial killer. [1hr 40mins.]

SEFTON

17:00 With Great Pleasure
Our Guest Tom Holt discusses some of his favourite pieces of other peoples' work with KIM Campbell. Readings by Susan Booth, Kim Campbell and Trevor Reynolds

18:30 Second Endings
With one bound he was free? Colin Greenland, Valerie Housden, Farah Mendlesohn and Paul Treadaway would have continued the story differently. Austin Benson moderates.

20:00 Need we have faces?
Does characterisation matter in Science Fiction? Discussed by Colin Fine, Mike Scott, Jennifer Swift and Jo Walton. Tim Bartel moderates.

21:30 Plan 9 - The Director's Cut
You've seen the movie, you've got the T-shirt, now pick the cast. A panel game by Dai and Huw Walters.

BOARDROOM

17:30 Breakfast of Champignons
Food was; food is; food will be. Served up by Joan Paterson, and chewed over by Caroline Bott, Bazooka, Judith Hanna and Tim Walker.

21:30 Room available for Filking

FAN ROOM (EMPIRE)

18:00 If the BSFA didn't exist, would we have to invent it?
Someone once said that if God didn't exist, mankind would have to invent him. Moderator John D Ricketts will discuss whether the BSFA is also a necessary evil.

22:30 Fan Fund Auction. Part 2.
So you've still got some money left, well, let's make sure it goes to a good home.

23:30 The Games Compendium
A test of physical dexterity, mental acuity and good fun. Just the job when you've had a few drinks.

Sunday

MAIN HALL

08:00 Captain Tartan Rehearsal
(in front of Main Hall). [Until 12:30.]

10:30 Men in Black
(film, in the back of the Main Hall). Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith protecting humanity from the scum of the universe. Followed by a discussion of the film led by John Richards. [2 hrs.]

12:30 Wall up

13:30 Where do you want to spend Easter 2001?
Bid Session, chaired by Pat McMurray. Followed by a presentation by 2Kon, next year's Eastercon.

15:00 Guest of Honour Interview
Peter Beagle in conversation with Colin Greenland.

16:30 The Science of Discworld. the Magic of Roundworld
A talk by Jack Cohen.

SEFTON

10:30 Jeff Noon reads from his own work

12:00 Art Auction
[1hr 30 mins.]

14:00 The Arthur C Clarke Award Nominations
The finalists discussed by Andrew M Butler, Nickianne Moody and Peter Weston. Edward James moderates.

BOARDROOM

11:30 Feedback: The Whine of Wrath
Your last chance to tell us if something's wrong: speak up NOW, while we have time to fix it. Andrew Adams chairs. 30 mins.

12:30 A Political History of the Future
Predicted by Simon Bradshaw, Ken MacLeod, Peter Cohen, and John Meaney. Bridget Wilkinson moderates.

16:00 Lore of the UKcon
KIM Campbell and Ben Yalow explore the possibilities of future British Worldcons.

FAN ROOM (EMPIRE)

11:30 Looking in from the outside
Moderator Christina Lake finds out what not only British Fandom, but also fannish fandom as a whole, looks like to others. Vijay Bowen, Mary Burns, Mary Kay Kare.

Reconvene

Read Me

Sunday

MAIN HALL	SEFTON	BOARDROOM	FAN ROOM (EMPIRE)
	17:30 The n'Early Music Consort. A concert to delight the ears and soothe those jangled convention nerves		
18:00 Awards Ceremony MC Pat Cadigan.		***18:00 So you think you're a media fan?*** A game, brought to you by Nigel and Sabine Furlong Productions.	
			18:30 A Fannish Retirement Home We will all get old, that is a fact of life. Giulia de Cesare discusses the requirements we may have for a retirement home that would suit the needs of fans.
19:00 Captain Tartan Set up	***19:00 Looking Back at the Present*** How will future historians and novelists see today? With John Clute, Tanya Brown, Joseph Nicholas and Chris Priest. John Bray moderates.	***19:00 The Encyclopaedia of Animated Movies.*** "Another Damned, Thick, Square Encyclopaedia! Always Scribble, Scribble, Scribble! Eh! Mr Grant!" Pamela D. Scoville and Andrew Osmond talk about the planned Encyclopaedia of Animated Movies, and animation in general, while Paul Barnett (John Grant) wonders how he could have been such a fool after experiencing The Encyclopaedia of Fantasy.	
20:00 Captain Tartan Saves the World - Again! A David B. Wake presentation. [1hr 30 mins.]			
		21:00 The Heart of Empire Bryan Talbot discusses his sequel to "The Adventures of Luther Arkwright", with Chris Bell, Simon Bisson and Mary Branscombe.	
21:30 Demolition Man film, in the back half of the room). Culture clashes abound as twentieth century cop (Sylvester Stallone) pursues a violent criminal through a sanitised and politically correct 21st century. (2hrs.).	***21:30 The 2Kon Ceilidh***		
		22:30 Room available for Filking	***22:30 Twnety Years of Uproar*** Dave Langford gives us a re-run of his 1997 discourse on fanzines of his early fan days with, in Dave's words "Extracts from the good stuff".
00:30 Dragonheart (video) 10th century Britain is under a tyrant's rule. In an unusual alliance, a knight and a dragon (voiced by Sean Connery) attempt the overthrow of the despot. [1hr 40mins.]			***23:30 The Ultimate Games Compendium. The Final.***

Reconvene

Reconvene

Reader Me Monday

MAIN HALL

10:30 Beyond Cyberdrome IV
Little robots battling in an orgy of spilled oil and gears, refereed by SMS and Eira. If you want to enter a robot, sign up at the Cyberdrome workshop on Friday at 16:00 in Room 155.

12:30 Latex Abuse in Babylon 5
5. Jack Cohen, Morag Kerr, Jane Killick and Kathy Taylor discuss the aliens' physiology. KIM Campbell moderates.

14:00 How Was it for You?
Your chance to offer advice and suggestions to future conventions. Andrew Adams takes notes on behalf of 2Kon.

15:30 Closing Ceremony
The usual farewells: plus some more surprises?

SEFTON

11:00 Who Critiques the Critics?
Peter Beagle, John Clute, Maureen Kincaid Speller and Andy Sawyer compare academic, fannish and professional criticism. Terry Hunt moderates.

13:00 Filk Concert
Guess today's theme. (Actually, it's "Time Will Be").

14:30 Turkeys and Ham
Live action excerpts from the worst of SF. Marion Pitman and Peter Garratt separate you from your money in aid of Sight Savers.

16:30 Beyond the fields we know
An all-inclusive quiz. Test your non-SF knowledge with Giulia de Cesare.

BOARDROOM

10:30 Careering into Space
How to design your academic career for a job in space. Advice from Colin Fine Farah Mendlesohn, Bridget Wilkinson. Simon Bradshaw moderates.

12:00 Book Auction Overflow
Continued from Saturday.

13:30 Is that a Laser in your pocket?
Geek toys of tomorrow, predicted by Eddie Cochrane, John Dallman, Andrew Langhammer and Omega. Dave O'Neill moderates.

15:00 Paganism in SF
A panel with Gytha North, John Philpott, Lena Sarah and Freda Warrington. Norman Clinton (Greywolf) moderates.

FAN ROOM (EMPIRE)

12:00 Fannish Myths and Fashions
What were they, what will they be? Who knows? You will after this item.

14:30 Yet more Anthology Readings
Hear more live excerpts from the Reconvene Fanthology. (30 mins.)

Friday

Readings & Panels

18:00
in the American Bar.
Post War, Pre-New Wave. Andy M. Butler, Maureen Kincaid Speller and Andy Sawyer discuss the BSFA's "Best of British" poll results for the period 1948-1961.

18:30
in Room 169.
A reading by Freda Warrington.

20:00
in the American Bar.
A reading by Susanna Clarke.

Workshops

14:00
in Room 255.
Fun and humour in SF. Why exactly is 42 funny? Captain Slog - The Final Front Ear. Arthur Chappell explores what makes us laugh.

16:00
in Room 155.
Cyberdrome. Build a robot for Monday's epic battle, under the guidance of SMS and Eira. NB. If you already have a robot ready to compete on Monday you must come to this workshop to fill in an entry sheet. See page ???? for the rules. (3 hrs.)

16:00
in Room 255.
How to moderate a panel. Chris and Pauline Morgan discuss and demonstrate.

Chair Circles

See page 4 for how to sign up and find them.

13:00
Napoleonic Fiction.
Led by John Bray.

Other

13:00
in the Video Room.
Malcolm Davies leads an illustrated discussion of Unintentional Pasts.

13:00
in the Executive Suite,
ongoing. Chaos costuming begins. With Jaine Weddell.

17:30
in Room 255.
Poetry circle, with Kluggers the Barred. Recite or read your favourite verses

All Day
in Room 269.
Captain Tartan Rehearsals. Call in and ask for David Wake, he may still need people for walk-on roles, small speaking parts and as general helpers.

17:30
in Room 255.
Pagan meeting. Leader, Norman Clinton (Greywolf).

Saturday

Readings, Panels & Games

10:00
In the American Bar.
"Not the Arther C. Clarke Awards". Claire Brialey, Tanya Brown, Paul Kincaid and Farah Mendlesohn discuss the ones that got away.

10:30
in Room 169.
A reading by Gwylim Hunter (Mark Huntley-James).
11:30 in the American Bar.
The British New Wave. Andy M. Butler, Colin Greenland and Paul Kincaid discuss the BSFA's "Best of British" poll results for the period 1961-1973.

12:00
In Room 169.
Sounds Familiar. Can you remember the sound of Orac switching on? What about the Earth being destroyed again? A game run by Phil Bradley.

18:00
in Room 169.
A reading by Iain Banks.

21:30
in Room 169.
Excerpts from the Science Fiction Foundation's Wyndham archives, read by Andy Sawyer.

Workshops

11:00
in Room 155.
How to Organise a Convention Green Room. Expert advice from Phil Nanson and Kari.

12:30
in Room 155.
Blue Peter, the Final Frontier. Build a spaceship from cardboard, plastic bottles and sticky-backed plastic. Andrew Langhammer and Noel Collyer organise and advise. [2 hours.]

13:00
in Room 255.
Running an Art Show and an Art Auction. Bill and Mary Burns give you the benefit of their experience.

15:30
in Room 169.
Designing a Planet. An interactive workshop. David Angus with John Bray, Del Cotter and Liam Proven.

16:00
in Room 155.
Becoming a Convention Treasurer. Apart from collecting the money, not sure what you do? Keith Cosslett's workshop is for you.

Chair Circles

See page 4 for how to sign up and find them.

09:30
Fanzines, APAs and Fannish Art.
Led by Mic Rogers.

13:30
The cheery optimism of British SF.
Ken MacLeod dismisses the widespread belief that British SF is gloomy, whereas US SF is gung-ho.

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The cheery optimism of British SF.
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16:30
John Clute discusses further aspects of his GOH speech.

18:00
Peter Beagle leads a chair circle.

18:30
The American Civil War.
Led by Eddie Cochrane.

Other

10:30
In the Executive Suite.
Chaos Costuming with Jaine Weddell. [until 16:00]

11:00
at a desk outside the Book Room.
Tom Holt signs his books.

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at a desk outside the Book Room.
Tom Holt signs his books.

11:00
in Room 255.
Poetry circle, with Kluggers the Barred. Recite or read your favourite verses

13:00
at a desk outside the Book Room.
Jeff Noon signs his books.

15:30
in the Video Room.
Weird Stuff. Simon de Wolfe leads an illustrated discussion.

16:00
in the American Bar.
BSFA Annual General Meeting.

All Day
in Room 269.
Captain Tartan Rehearsals. Call in and ask for David Wake, he may still need people for walk-on roles, small speaking parts and as general helpers.

Sunday

Readings, Panels & Games

12:30
in Room 169.
A reading by Tom Holt.

14:00
in Room 169.
Science Fiction Pictionary. Pictorial Charades: a game run by Aletia Ray.

19:00
in the American Bar.
A reading by Colin Greenland.

21:00
in the American Bar.
After the Wave, before the Zone. Andy M. Butler, Chris Hill and Paul Kincaid discuss the BSFA's "Best of British" poll results for the period 1973 to 1982.

22:00
in Room 169.
A reading by Ramsey Campbell.

Workshops

11:30
in Room 155.
Research for writers. Lisanne Norman suggests where you can find the facts.

11:30
on the Lounge balcony.
Come colour in a con T-Shirt, or design and paint your own. Help from Lissa Allcock. [up to 3 hours]

16:00
in Room 155.
John Harold discusses the philosophy of Convention Security.

18:00
in Room 155.
Belly dancing workshop. Gail Courtney demonstrates.

Chair Circles

See page 4 for how to sign up and find them.

12:00
Forgotten Futures.
Marcus L. Rowland introduces the latest developments in his RPG system.

Other

10:30
in Room 169.
Songs of Praise. Sing your favourite hymns with Rhodri James.

11:00
at a desk outside the Book Room.
Peter Beagle signs his books.

11:00
in the Video Room.
When we watched with Mother. Tibs leads an illustrated discussion of favourite children's' TV programmes..

12:30
in the American Bar.
The Science Fiction Foundation AGM.

18:00
in Room 255.
Poetry circle, with Kluggers the Barred. Recite or read your favourite verses

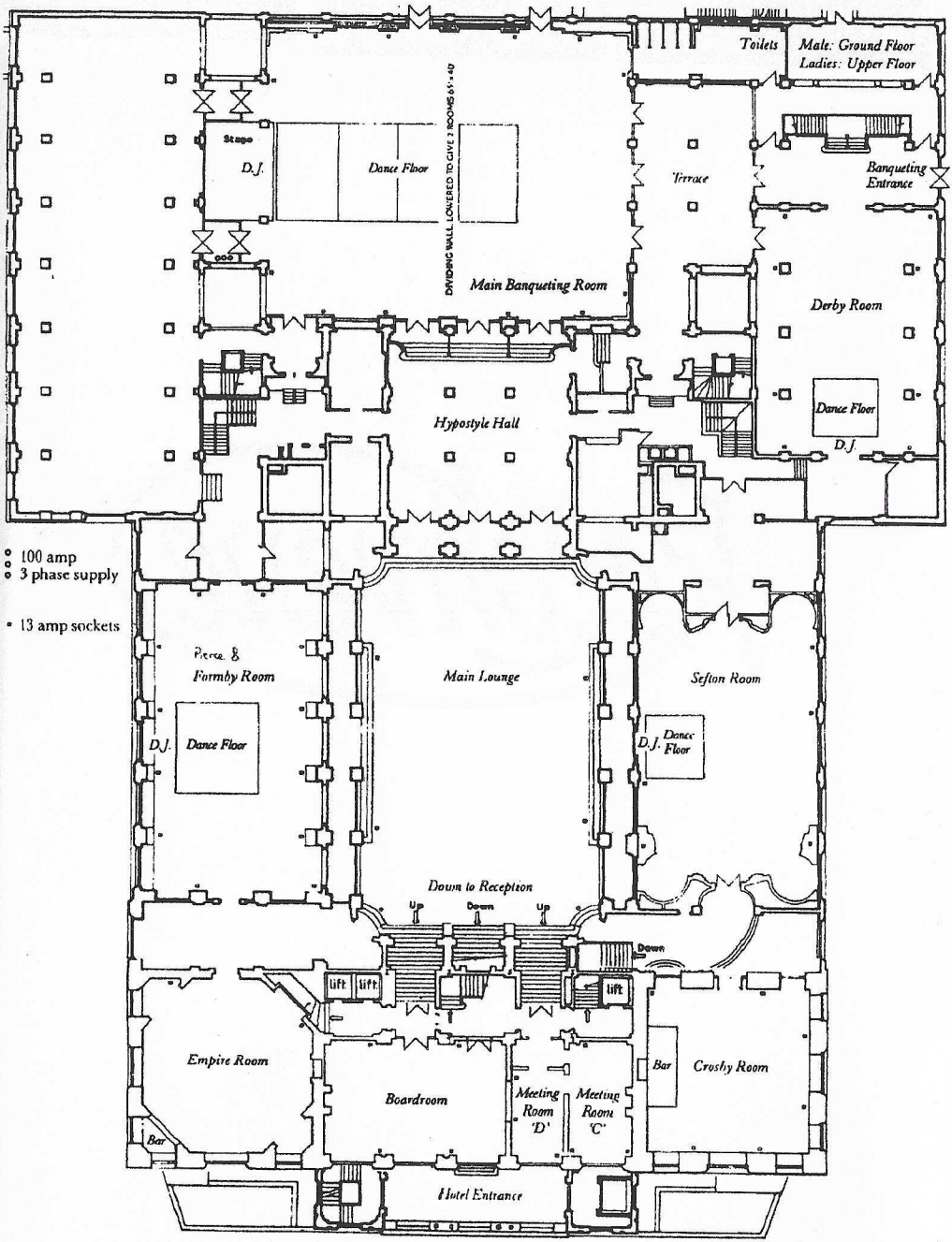
19:00
in Room 255.
Poetry reading "The trials and tribulations of Colac the Wizard" Read by Kluggers.

20:30
in Room 155.
Jo and Ken Walton demonstrate their IDC story telling games.

Room 269 and Main Hall (times vary). Captain Tartan Rehearsals.

Readings, Panels & Games	Workshops	Chair Circles	Other
		See page 4 for how to sign up and find them.	
11:00 **in Room 169** A reading by John Meaney.		*10:30* **The Work of Frank Miller.** Led by Ron Tiner.	
		11:30 **Hoax Bids:** how to have fun at a bid session with your clothes on. Led by Pat McMurray.	*12:00* **in the Video Room.** Hong Kong Electric Shadows. An illustrated discussion led by Kari and Phil Nanson.
13:00 **In Room 169.** The Interzone years. Andy M Butler, Paul Billinger and Tanya Brown discuss the BSFA's "Best of British" poll results for the period 1982 to 1999.	*13:00* **In Room 255.** Mark Plummer advises how to Organise a Convention Book Room.	*13:30* **The Works of Jorge Luis Borges.** Led by Jeff Noon.	
			19:30 **Dead dog party.** When and where ????

Gratuitous Empty Page

Reconvene

the 50th British Eastercon April 1st - 5th 1999